quirement e.g. overseas students. HIV testing may be done for research purposes on approved research protocols with Institutional and ICMR clearances.

—The Government have considered the recommendation of ICMR and accordingly an infection control committee has been made functional in four designated hospitals in metropolitan cities. Training coures have been/are being organised for training of medical, para-medical and laboratory staff.

The Directorate General of Health Services issued detailed guidelines regarding handling and disposal of dead bodies of AIDS cases, care of HIV infected persons and prevention of accidental infection in hospitals.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government of India has drawn up Medium Term plan for prevention of AIDS. In the Medium Term plan, it has been decided to strengthen the existing facilities for treatment of AIDS infected patients at the identified Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country. The expansion of the facilities include :

—providing clinical care to patients with HIV infection.

—providing counselling to the patients and their spouses/relatives.

—providing continuous medical care to the out-patients.

—collecting data on clinical profile, immunological profile, opportunistic infections and other manifestation of HIV infection.

—providing training facilities to medical and para-medical personnel in the management of HIV patients.

Ill Effects of Smoking and Chewing of Tobacco

1357. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the "Indian Express" of the 31st May, 1990 captioned "India in grip of tobacco epidemic";

(b) whether lakhs of people die premature due to smoking and chewing of tobacco;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken/propose to take any fresh steps to create awareness about ill effects of smoking and chewing of tobacco; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The use of tobacco is substantial health hazard. However, no scientific data regarding number of pre-mature deaths due to smoking and chewing of tobacco in the country is available. The data from the National Cancer Registry project of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi has shown that about 1/3rd of all the cancer cases relate to the use of tobacco.

(c) and (d) Various health education measures are being undertaken to educate the people about the ill effects of smoking and use of tobacco. "World No Tobacco Day was celebrated on 31st May, 1990" to bring about awareness amongst the masses against smoking and consumption of tobacco.

Overcharging on Drugs

1358. CHOUDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the cases of overcharging which have come to the notice of Government under DPCO, 1979 and 1987;